

Miramonte Wins Mock Trial Competition

Submitted by Jonathan Lance



Miramonte's team won the Mock Trial competition.

After a number of speeches made by the coaches and individual awards presented to exceptional performing students, the 35th Annual Contra Costa County High School Mock Trials Awards Ceremony concluded with the naming of this year's championship team: Miramonte High School. Acalanes High School was awarded second place.

Mock Trial is an academic event for high school students coordinated by the Contra Costa County Office of Education, and sponsored by the Constitutional Rights Foundation. Most of the teams begin their Mock

Trial training when they commence the new school year, which makes Mock Trials one of the longest seasons of all the participating schools sports and academic activities. The purpose of this program is to teach students about the law and the workings of the legal system. To prepare, the students conducted legal research and received guidance on courtroom procedures from their schoolteachers and volunteer attorneys and judges, to acquire a working knowledge of the judicial system.

For the past four weeks (seven evenings), the Miramonte High

School team and 14 other Contra Costa County high school Mock Trial teams have been battling it out with each other inside the superior courthouse courtrooms of Martinez. Miramonte will now represent Contra Costa County at the California State Mock Trial competition, held in Sacramento, March 18-20. California's state finalist team will then compete in the National Mock Trial Competition, held in Boise, Idaho, May 12-14.

The top four teams finished in this order: First was Miramonte, followed by Acalanes, then Heritage High and

California High at fourth.

GJEL Accident Attorneys underwrote this year's Mock Trial program. The law firm also funded the CCCOE Mock Trial Scholarship Program. Lucy Portnoff of Miramonte High School was one of three recipients of a \$1,000 scholarship that can be applied to college tuition, books, room and board, travel to and from school, or other expenses related to higher education.

This year, 102 Bay Area practicing and retired attorneys, senior law students, and sworn judges volunteered their time to serve as Mock

Trial Attorney Scorers and Judges. These volunteers represented judges from Bay Area Superior Courts, the California Bankruptcy Court, the California Supreme Court, and the California Appellate Court. Attorney Scorers included Bay Area attorneys from county District Attorney and Public Defender offices, the State Attorney General's Office; and the California Department of Justice. Also assisting were nonprofit, public, private, and corporate attorneys. In addition, senior students from five Bay Area law schools lent a hand in scoring.



The Acalanes Mock Trial team placed second in the competition. Photos Diane Morrell, CCCOE

In Memory

Marty DeJonghe

May 17, 1939—Feb. 26, 2016



A celebration of life will be held at the Lafayette Reservoir in honor of Marty DeJonghe, who died Feb. 26.

Marty was born in Oakland, CA on May 17, 1939. She is preceded in death by her parents, Edna and Harry Bruno, and her oldest brother, Dave, and survived by her youngest brother, Tom.

The loves of her life are her husband Tom DeJonghe, her son Mark DeJonghe and her daughter Nicole Benter, with Sherry (daughter-in-law), Jack (son-in-law), and grandchildren Merrick, Darby and Roxy, and her extended family for half a century: the Aakers. Her extended family was nicknamed "the DeJaakers."

Marty died at sunrise, which made sense because she lit up the lives of all those she came in contact with. She was a "magical" fourth-grade teacher in Orinda and touched countless children. She said, "If you can dream it, you can achieve it." Nothing was impossible for Marty.

Donations may be made in her honor to Friends of Wagner Ranch Nature Area, P.O. Box 821, Orinda, CA, 94563.

David Howard Anderson

May 19, 1941-March 8, 2016



David Howard Anderson, age 74, of Moraga, passed away on March 8, 2016 at John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek.

He was born in Wichita, KS, on May 19, 1941, and spent his childhood in Burbank, CA. For several decades, he endured cold winters in Ann Arbor, MI, where he met and married his third wife, Charlene, who preceded him in death.

He moved to Moraga in 2011 to be closer to his daughter and her family, and spent his last years shuttling his grandkids to and from activities, enjoying regular family dinners, and treating his grandkids to his favorite treat: mint chocolate chip ice cream.

He will be remembered for his generosity, intellectual curiosity and captivating storytelling ability. He was an avid reader of everything from newspapers to history books to murder mysteries, and a film buff, preferring anything with a subtitle or mystery. He is survived by his children Kimberly Anderson Watkins (Trent), Curtis Anderson (Charlene), and grandchildren Madison and Cooper, and Nicole, Jordan, Ella, Conner and Holly.

Several Lamorinda Teams Advance to Odyssey of the Mind Finals

By Jennifer Wake



Moraga Rotary Division II middle school team took home first place. From left: Ryan Erickson-King, Sebastian Fojut, Alex Clare, Jack Erickson-King, Jenny Clare (coach), Vishal Laskari, and Zachary Yu. Photos provided

Teams from Burton Valley, Giorietta and Del Rey elementary schools, Orinda Intermediate School, as well as Moraga Rotary, Lafayette Rotary and Orinda Rotary, competed for and landed either first or second place in their divisions Feb. 27 in the Odyssey of the Mind regional competition in Concord.

Founded in 1978 by Dr. Sam Micklus, who challenged his industrial design students to create vehicles without wheels, mechanical pie throwers and flotation devices that would take them across a course on a lake, The Odyssey of the Mind program teaches students how to identify challenges and to think creatively,

take risks and apply ingenuity to solve problems.

One of this year's problems posed, called "Something Fishy," required teams to design and operate a technical apparatus that simulated multiple styles of fishing, with a fisher character working from a designated area to catch three different objects on the move – something expected, something unexpected, and a new discovery. Another problem, "No Cycle Recycle," had teams build, ride on, and drive a vehicle to pick up discarded items, adapt them in some way, and then deliver them to places to be re-used. The vehicle had to travel without pedaling for propulsion.

Team members worked together under strict rules and guidelines to answer the problems as creatively as possible and were rewarded for thinking "outside of the box."

Other problem categories included "Classics ... Aesop Gone Viral," "Stack Attack," "Furs, Fins, Feathers and Friends," and "Stir the Pot." The winning teams will be going on to compete in the state tournament on April 2 in Riverside, Calif., with winners from that competition will face off against teams from across the country at the World Finals May 25-28 at Iowa State University.

For information, visit www.odysseyofthemind.com.



Moraga Rotary Division I elementary school fifth-grade team also took home top honors. From left: Anna Dendinger, Paige Davis, Lillian Yu (coach), Alexandra Yu, Stefanie Moore, Mira Shah, Josie Hayes and Annie Coane.

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